

STILL
ONLY 35¢

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

71
DEC

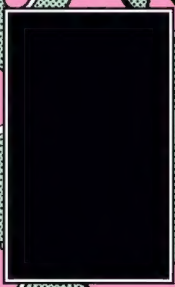
02449

©1978 MARVEL COMICS GROUP



TM

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

DOUG MOENCH / MIKE ZECK / BRUCE D. J. NOVAK / J. NOVAK, LETTERER / ROGER STERN, EDITOR
WRITER ARTIST INKER COLORIST / JIM SHOOTER, ED-IN-CHIEF

NIGHTTIMES

"WEEKS HAVE PASSED
SINCE MY RETURN
FROM NEW YORK, A
MONTH SINCE I
LAST SAW CHINA.

"I HAVE SETTLED NOW
INTO A **ROUTINE**, AN
EXISTENCE WHICH IS
FINALLY WHOLE--A
UNITY OF **MIND, BODY,**
SPIRIT AND EMOTIONS.

"BUT THE PIECES OF
THE PAST ARE STILL
FRAGMENTED AND
SCATTERED. I MUST
GATHER THEM TO-
GETHER, AND SEE
HOW THEY FIT..."

"THE CHINA SEAS AFFAIR
BEGAN WHEN I FIRST FOUGHT
SKULLCRUSHER..."



"THEY FOUGHT
FOR CRATES
AND THE KEY
TO DOOM."



"I FOUGHT FOR THE
SAFETY OF A
WOMAN WHOSE
SONGS ONCE
TOUCHED ME..."



"...JULIETTE."

"...ALL
OF WHOM
ALSO SOUGHT THE
CRATES, INVOLVING ME
AGAIN IN THE SCHEMES
OF MI-6..."



"...THEN PAVANE..."



"...THE PIRATE KOGAR..."



"ONLY MY FIGHT
WAS WON..."



"...LONG
AFTER
I HAD
TURNED
MY BACK ON
SMITH'S
ORGANIZATION."



"IT ENDED,
LEAVING MY
FEELINGS CONFUSED, TORN
BETWEEN JULIETTE AND
LEIKO..."



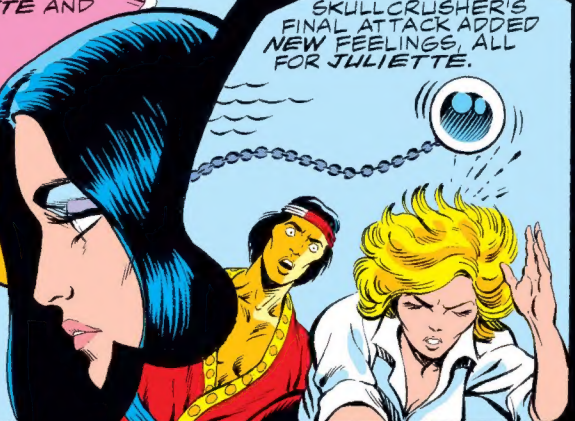
"...AND FINALLY SHEN
KUEI: CAT."



"...AND WOULD HAVE BEEN REWARDED HAD
I BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE MEMORIES OF
LEIKO-- WHO APPEARED WITH RESTON,
MELISSA GREVILLE, AND TARR..."



"...UNTIL
SKULLCRUSHER'S
FINAL ATTACK ADDED
NEW FEELINGS, ALL
FOR JULIETTE."



"I PURSUED SKULLCRUSHER TO A HONG KONG TEMPLE, AND THERE I STALKED VENGEANCE IN JULIETTE'S NAME, BUT--

YOU NO LONGER HAVE REASON TO FIGHT, SON OF FU MANCHU!

THE BLONDE WOMAN CARED NOTHING FOR YOU! YOU WERE A SPECK OF DIRT-- TRAPPED IN HER EYE!

"MY HEART WORSHIPPED JULIETTE, AND I MIGHT HAVE KILLED HIM...

STOP!

"... BUT MY HEART HAD BEEN WRONG, MY FEELINGS DISTORTED BY THE SIGHT OF HER BLOOD.

PLEASE STOP, SHANG-CHI... AND I'LL TAKE HIM AWAY FROM HERE...

YES... MAYBE I'M JUST WEAK, BUT... I CAN'T HELP IT...

"... IN A FIGHT WITH SKULLCRUSHER, AND A NEW FACE FOR JULIETTE.

I... I'M SORRY.

HIM--?! YOU LEFT... FOR HIM?!

"AND SO IT ENDED AS IT BEGAN...

"IT WAS A BAD ENDING.



"THEN,
MORE
PIECES
OF THE
PAST."

"I SEE THEM
AGAIN,
HAPPENING
NOW..."

"I RETURN FROM THE
TEMPLE, TO THE
DOCKS WHERE SILENT
QUESTIONS TREMBLE
BETWEEN LEIKO
AND ME."

"SHE COMES TO ME."

"SHE CRIES..."

"...WHISPERS
THROUGH HER
TEARS..."

"... AND
WALKS
AWAY."



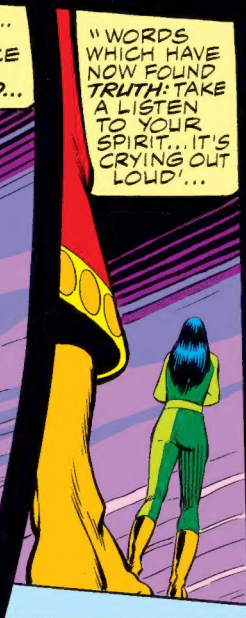
"I WATCH,
AND I AM
MOVED,
UNABLE TO
SPEAK..."

"SHE WHISPERED...
WORDS FROM A
SONG THAT ONCE
FILLED THE AIR
WHEN WE LOVED..."

"WORDS
WHICH HAVE
NOW FOUND
TRUTH: TAKE
A LISTEN
TO YOUR
SPIRIT... IT'S
CRYING OUT
LOUD..."

L-LEIKO...

YES...?



"YES."



"WE RETURNED TO LONDON..."

"...TO A TIME OF RECOVERY AND LINGERING UNCERTAINTY."

"HAD LEIKO AND I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE, OR HAD WE MERELY EMBRACED THE ONLY SHELTER FROM OUR STORMS? IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO KNOW."



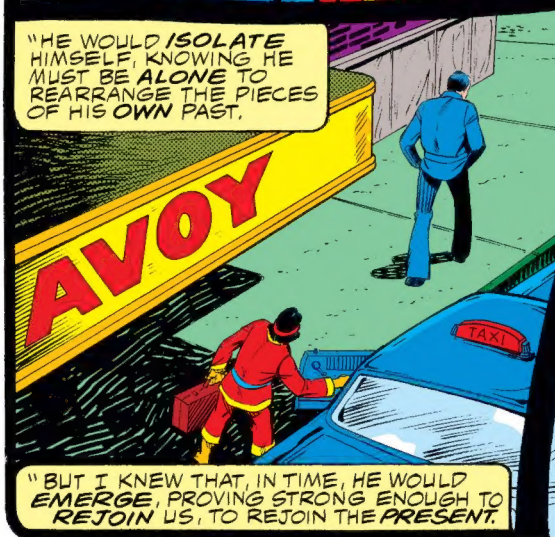
"SOME OF THAT TIME WAS GRANTED BY THE CHANCE TO AID TARR IN A PRIVATE MATTER..."

"I JOURNEYED WITH HIM TO HIS MANSION ON LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK..."



"...WHERE HIS PAST SUDDENLY SHATTERED, TAKING WITH IT MUCH OF THE FUTURE IN MEMORIES OF THE NEW FACE HE FOUND ON HIS LONG-AGO LOVE."

"I KNEW WHAT HE FELT."



"HE WOULD ISOLATE HIMSELF, KNOWING HE MUST BE ALONE TO REARRANGE THE PIECES OF HIS OWN PAST."

"AND NOW I AM HOME, IN A PLACE NOT MY HOME, SETTLED INTO A... ROUTINE ... WHICH, LIKE ALL REGIMENTED REALITIES, LIMITS THE CHANCE OF LIFE-- BUT WHICH IS NEEDED, COMFORTING, SOOTHING..."

"BUT I KNEW THAT, IN TIME, HE WOULD EMERGE, PROVING STRONG ENOUGH TO REJOIN US, TO REJOIN THE PRESENT."

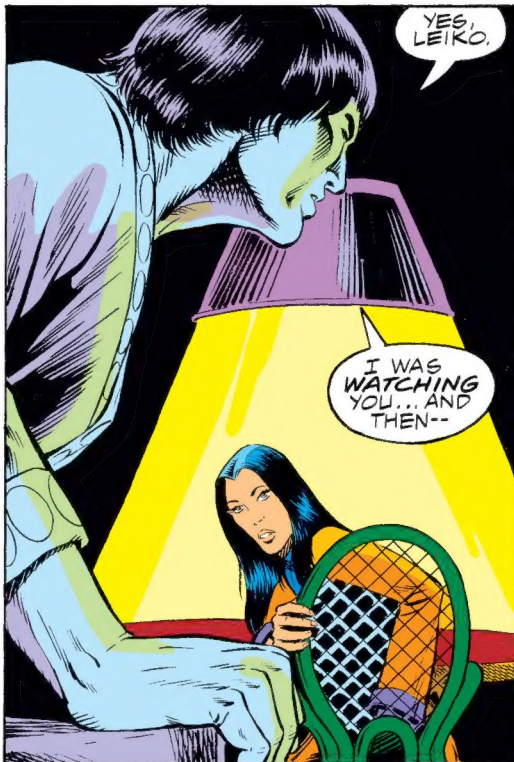


"PERHAPS IT IS SOMETIMES BEST TO BECOME REGIMENTED, LETTING THE MIND SLEEP, WHILE THE SPIRIT HEALS... SO THAT WHEN GENUINE EMOTIONS DO SURFACE, THEY STAB THE SOUL IN STARK CONTRAST, LIKE LANCES OF BLINDING LIGHT."



"YES... FOR NOW, IT IS BEST TO LIVE THIS ORDERED ROUTINE, LETTING THE PIECES SLOWLY GROW CLOSER UNTIL FINALLY THEY WILL INTERLOCK AND--"

THINKING, SHANG-CHI?



YES, LEIKO.

I WAS WATCHING YOU... AND THEN--

AND THEN YOU STARTED PICKING UP YOUR OWN PIECES--



--AND PUTTING THEM IN PLACE.

ANY LUCK?



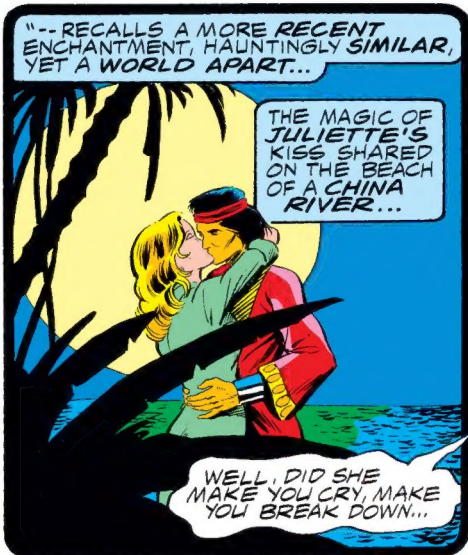
SOME... ALL THAT CAN BE EXPECTED FOR NOW.

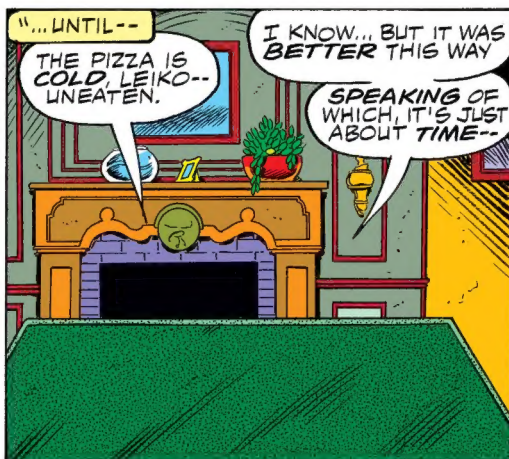
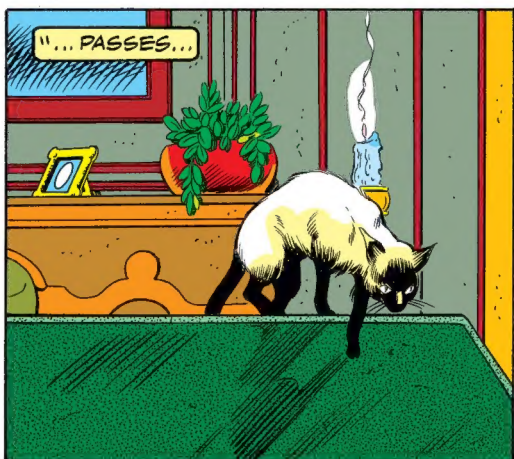
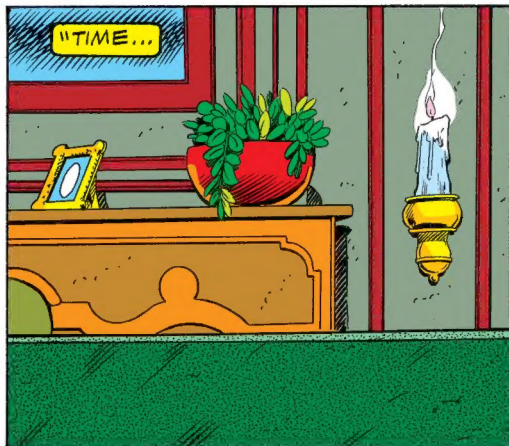
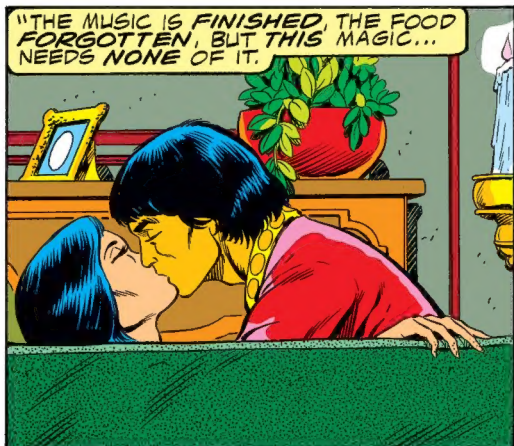
WELL, I'M ALMOST DONE WITH MY PUZZLE, TOO-- AND, QUITE CONVENIENTLY, IT'S TIME TO EAT. I ORDERED SOMETHING SPECIAL TONIGHT...

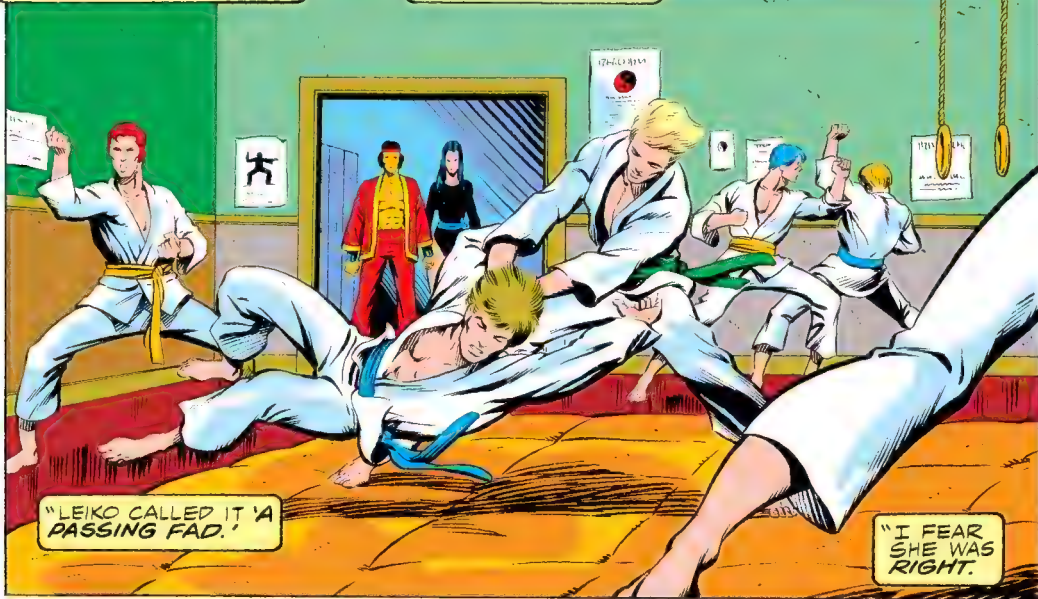
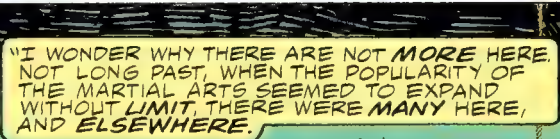
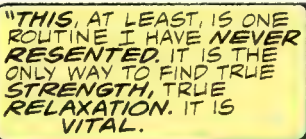
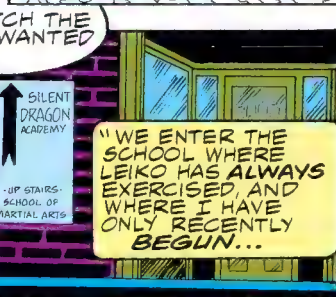
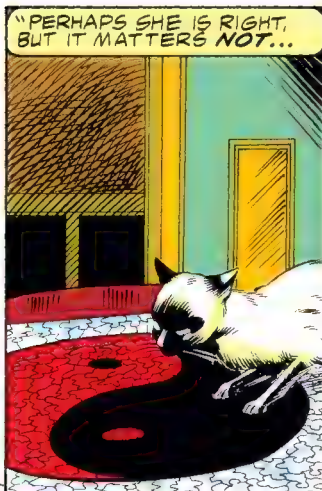
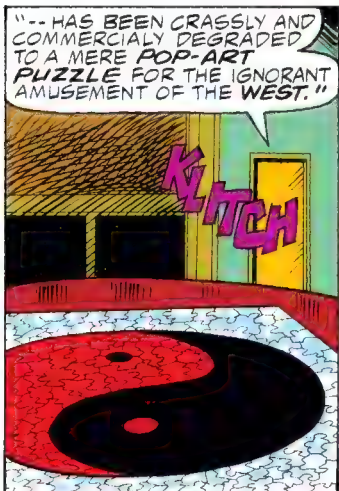


AH -- AND THERE IT IS...









"BUT I DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW A ROUTINE NECESSARY FOR THE DISCIPLINE OF BOTH **BODY** AND **MIND** CAN EVER BE A...**'FAD'**!"



"WE STRETCH EACH OF OUR **MUSCLES** IN TURN, RELEASING THE STIFFNESS OF THEIR **INACTIVITY**."



"SOMETIMES THE **MUSCLES** CRY OUT."



"IT IS BEST NOT TO **LISTEN** UNTIL THE **CRIES** FADE..."



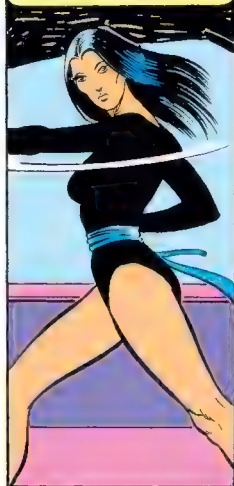
"...TO BE REPLACED BY AN INNER HUM OF **GRATITUDE** AND **SATISFACTION**..."



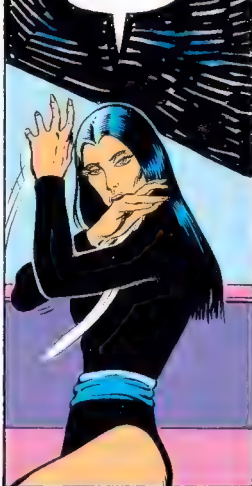
"...AT WHICH TIME ONE REALIZES THE **MUSCLES** NEVER **SPOKE** AT ALL."



"IT WAS ALL IN THE **MIND**."



"I'M **READY**..."



"WE **SPAR**... AND, AS WITH **MUSIC**, WHICH FINDS **STRENGTH** IN THE **SILENCE** BETWEEN **SOUNDS**, FEEDING ON THE **TINGLING** AIR **HOLDING** THAT **SILENCE**--"

"**HAH!**"



"--WE SEEK **ENERGY** IN THE **STILLNESS** BETWEEN **MOVEMENTS**..."

"WE DRAW **STRENGTH** FROM THE HOVERING VIBRANCY OF MOVEMENT **EXPENDED**, AND FROM ANTICIPATION OF THE MOVEMENT YET TO **COME**-- MOVEMENT WHICH **REQUIRES** THAT ENERGY."

"ONLY BY THUS **CONSERVING** ENERGY CAN **FURTHER** ENERGY BE PRODUCED FROM **WITHIN**--"

"... ENERGY EQUAL TO THE DEMANDS OF ALL COMBAT, REAL OR **STYLIZED**."

"THE OTHERS HAVE STOPPED TO **WATCH**. I AM TOO CONSCIOUS OF THEIR **EYES**, FEEDING FRAGMENTS OF THOUGHT TO MY EYES, EACH A PIECE OF THEIR **GREATER AWE**."

"IT FILLS ME WITH **PRIDE**, YET MAKES ME **UNCOMFORTABLE**. A STATE LEIKO CALLS '**FALSE MODESTY**.' SHE TRIES TO RISE ABOVE IT..."

"... BUT DOES SHE ACTUALLY STAND AT THE **HEART** OF IT, MERELY **IGNORING** IT, DECEIVING EVEN **HERSELF**?"



"THEY WATCH US BECAUSE WE ARE **BETTER** THAN THEM, AND ONLY WE KNOW THAT WE ARE **BETTER** THAN NO ONE. WE ARE THE SAME. WE HAVE **BETTERED** OURSELVES...



"...AND ARE DIFFERENT IN **NO OTHER** WAY, EXCEPT EVERY **POSSIBLE** WAY. LEIKO IS **RIGHT**, EVEN IF SHE **DOES** DECEIVE HERSELF..."

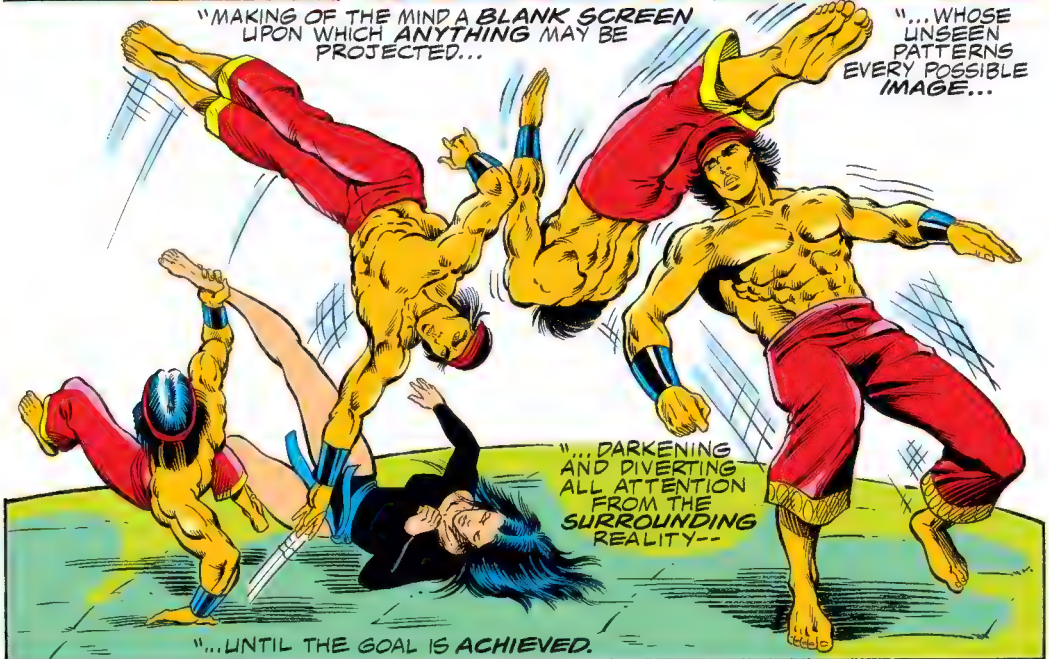


"I **MUST** IGNORE IT, BUT WITHOUT BEING CONSCIOUS OF **DOING**, SO, DEVOTING ALL THOUGHTS TO THE **REAL** REALITY, THE **INNER** REALITY..."



"MAKING OF THE MIND A **BLANK** SCREEN UPON WHICH ANYTHING MAY BE PROJECTED..."

"...WHOSE **UNSEEN** PATTERNS EVERY **POSSIBLE** IMAGE..."



"... DARKENING AND DIVERTING ALL ATTENTION FROM THE **SURROUNDING** REALITY--

"...UNTIL THE **GOAL** IS ACHIEVED."



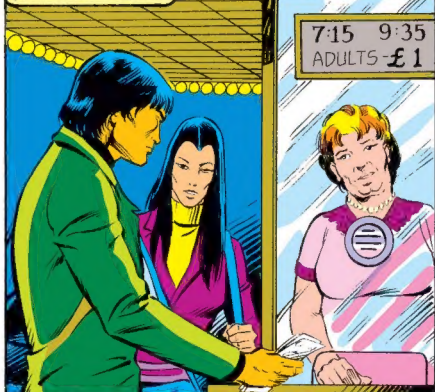
WOW.

YEAH... I GIVE UP

READY FOR THE MOVIE?

YES, YOU WERE GOOD TONIGHT, LEIKO--I AM VERY RELAXED.

"FILMS HAVE TAUGHT ME MUCH ABOUT THE ATTITUDES OF THE WEST, AND HAVE ALSO BECOME A ROUTINE..."



"...OFTEN AN ENJOYABLE ONE--AND, TONIGHT, AN EXHILARATING ONE."



"INDEED, THIS FILM IS AWESOME."

AFTER READING CLIVE'S BOOKS, YOU MUST BE A SCIENCE FICTION EXPERT BY NOW...



SO WHAT DID YOU THINK?

I HAVE NEVER ENJOYED A FILM MORE.

"WE EAT, FINALLY, WHERE WE HAVE OFTEN EATEN, BUT THE FOOD IS GOOD, AND SPICED WITH TALK OF THE FILM..."

--EVEN MORE THAN 'STAR WARS'? OH, COME ON, SHANG-- YOU CAN'T FIGHT THE FORCE.



YOU'VE STUDIED ZEN, LEIKO-- THERE IS NO NEED TO FIGHT "THE FORCE"! THEY ARE THE SAME-- EXCEPT ONE IS REAL.

"AND WE TAKE THE SAME RIDE THROUGH THE SAME PARK ON OUR WAY HOME... BUT IT IS A GOOD RIDE..."



ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN, SHANG-- YOUR FORCE IS BETTER.

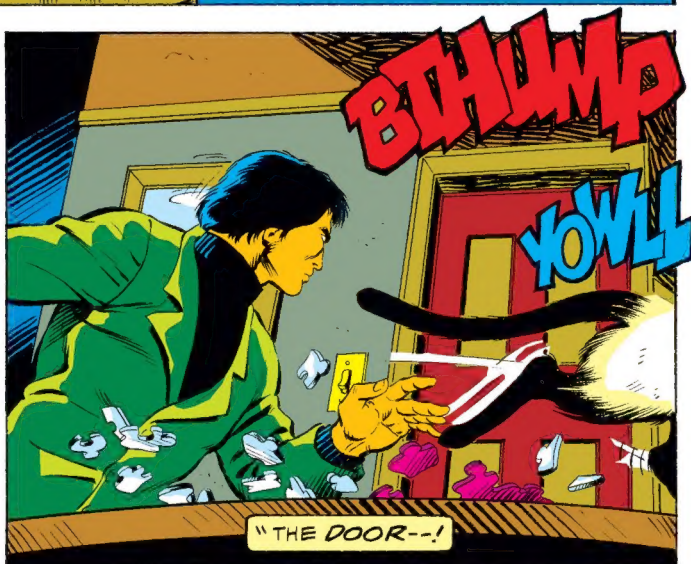
BESIDES, I CAN'T RESIST IT...

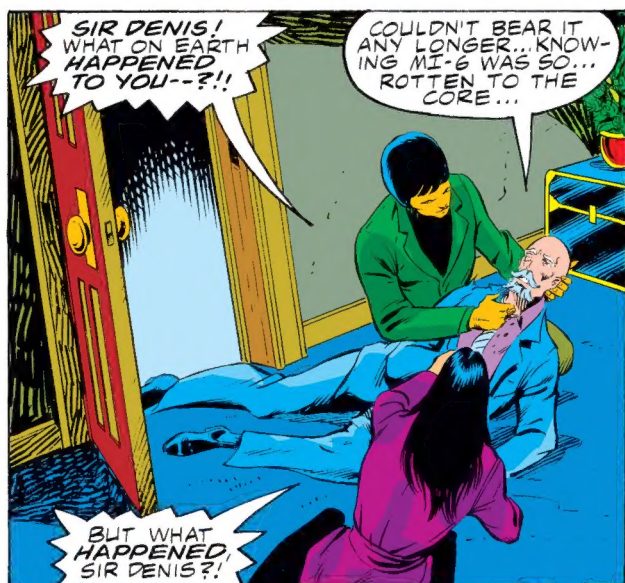
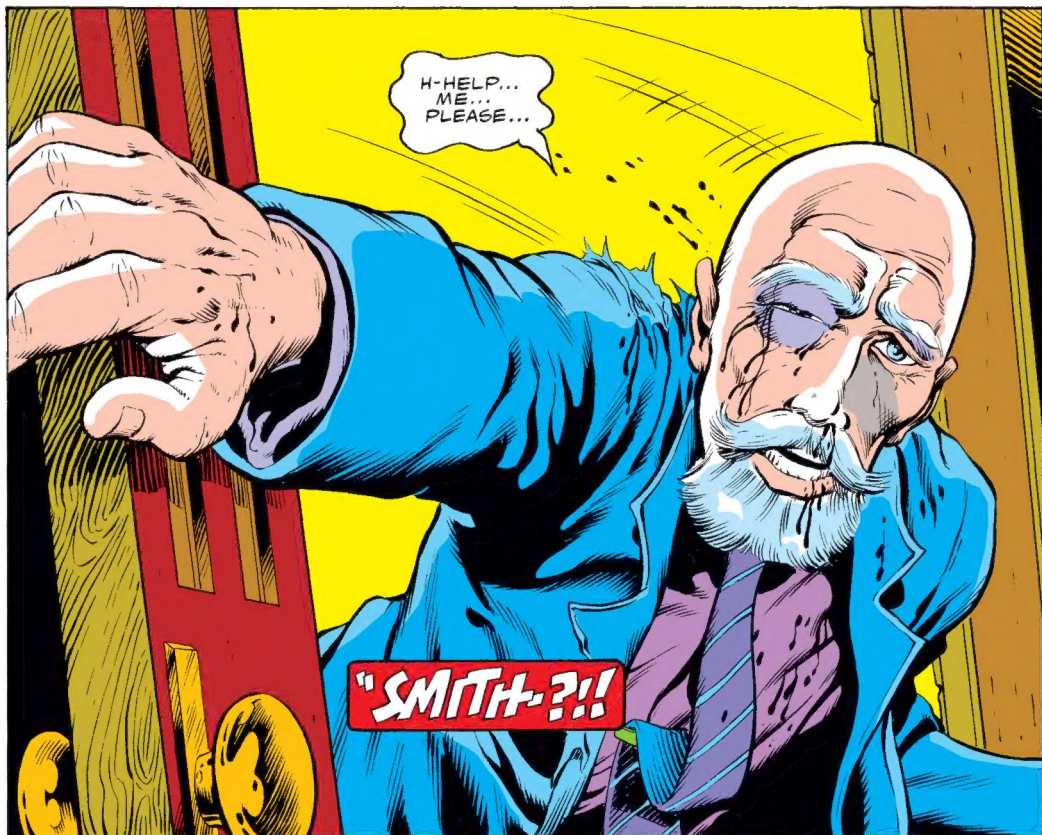
"AND WE FEEL THE SAME FEELINGS... BUT THEY ARE GOOD FEELINGS, AND GROWING STRONGER..."



MMM

"SHE HAS A FORCE OF HER OWN."





"AND IN A SINGLE MOMENT, THE PIECES OF THE PAST SLIP AWAY... SCATTERED ON A VIOLENT WIND."

NEXT ISSUE: THE SERENITY STOPS HERE, AND ACTION EXPLODES IN-- **TRAITORS TO THE CROWN!**

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

A TRIPLE TRIBUTE TO TRUMPETRY

First, due to Strange Distribution in various regions of the Great American Hinterlands, we are still—believe it or not—receiving entries to our Contest to Confound the Compleat Comics Connoisseur. This has unfortunately thrown a diabolical monkey wrench into the heart of our promise to announce the winner this issue. But take heart in the reassurance that we have not forgotten the contest. As soon as we can line up three days of spare time, we'll integrate all the new entries with the old, sift through the entire enormous stack yet *another* time, select and announce the winner(s), and award the prizes, hallelujah! (At this point, a tie seems likely and additional prizes are being contemplated.) So stay tuned, People—the end of this analytical affair is now within sight!

Secondly, due to an oversight on the armadillos' part, the listing on a recent Bullpen Bulletins page of Marvel-folk Eagle Award winners neglected two conscientious craftsmen very near and dear to our hearts—namely, Devil-May-Care Doug Moench and Peerless Paul Gulacy. So, just to set the record straight and get the blushes out of the way, we herewith announce that MASTER OF KUNG FU copped the award for Best Continued Story of 1976: The Fu Manchu Saga chronicled in issues #44-51. Thanks to Britons one and all who participated in the voting.

And third, due to dreadfully domineering deadlines, dastardly delinquency and near-default, as well as a plethora of good-in-their-own-right-but-continuity-busting fill-in issues, MOKF is both sad and pleased to announce a new permanent artist. Pleased because the new artist, as you've no doubt noticed, is none other than Mike Zeck, that fanciful Floridian recently transplanted to cold Connecticut. Mike has already proven himself well worthy of the MOKF task, doing a phenomenal job of picking up pieces under conditions of extreme duress. Shameless and undaunted, we predict that MOKF—with Mister Zeck at the artistic wheel—is hereby firmly on the track of consistency and sustained continuity and, furthermore, will rise to even *greater* heights of monthly glory.

And sad because it means saying farewell (but not, we hasten to add, goodbye) to Jim Craig. Quite simply, Jim could not maintain a monthly schedule of the high quality he demanded from himself. He will, however, continue to work for Marvel and is even now getting set to begin a special three-part MOKF epic—as well as a two-part MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE opus—on which he can work to his heart's content, tranquil and unhurried, to ensure the highest possible quality and the greatest degree of hassle-free care. Believe us, it'll be worth waiting for!

And now, while there's still some room left, let's try to slip in a letter or two...

Dear Marvel,

Recently, in the local comic book store I overheard a couple of fans expressing surprise that MOKF was still plugging along after Paul Gulacy's departure. I was surprised at their surprise. Since Paul left, we've had one reprint (well, it happens to the best), three fill-ins (all of which I greatly enjoyed), and the War-Yore tale, as well as the beginning of the "China Seas" saga. Now, while the War-Yore storyline was not one of Shang-Chi's greatest adventures, it was certainly good enough to keep me interested—even following in the wake of the Fu Manchu epic.

And the War-Yore tale was all done by Jim Craig. He's not Gulacy (and he's probably just as glad, no offense to either artist), but he is pretty good, and getting better every issue.

His faces may not be quite as expressive, and Tartag's inks may lie a little heavy on some panels, and *all* the backgrounds may not be picture-frame beautiful, but MOKF is still a very special treat to read.

Besides, Doug Moench's scripting was in topnotch form in #62; Shang-Chi is back in China; and Cat is an excellent villain, all the more so for having been an antihero in his last appearance.

Gentlemen, I really don't think you've got a thing to worry about.

Mark Willard
McCall, Idaho

Whew.

Dear Doug and Jim,

"My God!" he exclaimed while perusing MASTER OF KUNG FU #63.

There are writers and there are writers. Then there's Doug Moench! I stand astounded at the awesome ability lurking in the confines of this man's mind!

Concerning Ed Via's letter in MOKF #63: I find myself agreeing with every word he says. Doug is such a profoundly intricate writer that I find myself in awe of every subtly powerful issue he produces.

But I'll close quickly now since Ed, Henry Kujawa, and Bill Wu aptly expressed my every thought. Two questions: What in the world does Doug Moench look like? And how about a special MASTER OF KUNG FU FOOM issue? The comic has certainly been around long enough to warrant it!

Bob Theissen
Park Hills, Kentucky

Answering your two questions is a bit difficult. Last we checked, every mirror in the Moench manse had long since been shattered. . .but for at least a muddy inkling of the Moench mug, you might check February 23 on the Marvel calendar.

And we think a special MOKF FOOM issue is a great idea! (Hmm. . .maybe if we sent Fu Manchu to have a nice quiet talk with Dave "The Dude" Kraft--!

That's it for now, People—he be good!

ANNOUNCING: THE SECOND COMING OF...

KISS

THE SMASH SENSATION OF THE SEVENTIES!

EXCLUSIVE! More than 25 full-color photos from KISS' NBC Movie of the Week—KISS MEETS THE PHANTOM!

LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE! PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE LATEST, GREATEST, ALL-NEW ADVENTURES OF MARVEL'S ROCK SUPER-HEROES! RALPH MACCHIO, JOHN ROMITA, JR. AND TONY DEZUNIGA PRESENT 48 PAGES OF FULL-COLOR COMIC ART EXCITEMENT! THE EIGHT-PAGE FOLD-OUT POSTER WILL KNOCK YOU OFF YOUR 7-INCH PLATFORM SHOES!

ON SALE SEPTEMBER 11, WHEREVER DELUXE ROCK SUPER SPECIALS ARE SOLD!

